

Response – Claims

1 – 4 (Cancelled)

5. (Currently amended) ~~The bed-tent of claim 2,~~ A bed-tent for providing an enclosure over a bed, comprising:

a canopy having an open base,

said canopy comprising spaced apart at least first and second panels and a flexible cover extending between said panels,

each said panel comprising at least one hoop of flexible, resilient, strip material and a sheet of flexible fabric in the space within and marginally secured to said hoop generally at the perimeter thereof,

said sheets being maintained taut by, and resisting collapse of, the hoops to which said sheets are secured,

retainers for releasably securing said canopy to the bed, and

an entry to said canopy,

at least one of said hoops being capable of being twisted or wound into a relatively flat coil of reduced diameter for storage,

a mattress for the bed, the mattress having a top surface, a peripheral edge, and four corners,

the open base of the canopy being substantially coextensive with the peripheral edge of the mattress, and

the retainers releasably engaging the mattress,

wherein said retainers comprise flexible straps respectively engaging the corners of the mattress.

6 – 9 (Cancelled)

10. (Currently amended) ~~The bed-tent of claim 7,~~ A bed-tent for providing an enclosure over a bed mattress, comprising:

a canopy having an open base,

said canopy comprising spaced apart at least a first panel and a second panel and a flexible cover extending between said panels,

a flexible supporting frame disposed externally of said canopy for holding said panels spaced apart and generally erect,

connectors to releasably attach said canopy to said frame,

receiving means on said canopy for removably receiving end portions of said frame,

retainers for releasably securing said canopy to the bed mattress, and

an entry to said canopy,

said frame having a first flexible stanchion releasably connected to said first panel,

said frame having a second flexible stanchion releasably connected to said second panel,

said frame having a frame member disposed above said canopy and extending between and holding generally upright said first and second stanchions.

11. (Original) The bed-tent of claim 10, wherein said stanchions and said frame member each comprise a plurality of elongated tubular segments removably connected end-to-end in a linear series.

12. (Currently amended) The bed-tent of claim 11, wherein said tubular segments are held together by elastic cording under tension extending lengthwise through said segments.

13. (Currently amended) ~~The bed-tent of claim 7,~~ A bed-tent for providing an enclosure over a bed mattress, comprising:

a canopy having an open base,

said canopy comprising spaced apart at least a first panel and a second panel and a flexible cover extending between said panels,

a flexible supporting frame disposed externally of said canopy for holding said panels spaced apart and generally erect,

connectors to releasably attach said canopy to said frame,

receiving means on said canopy for removably receiving end portions of said frame,

retainers for releasably securing said canopy to the bed mattress, and

an entry to said canopy,

wherein said retainers comprise flexible straps respectively engaging the corners of the mattress.

14 – 20 (Cancelled)

21. (Currently amended) ~~The bed tent of claim 19,~~ A bed-tent for providing an enclosure over a bed mattress, comprising:

a canopy having an open base,

said canopy comprising spaced apart at least a first panel and a second panel and a flexible cover extending between said panels,

a flexible supporting frame disposed externally of said canopy for holding said panels spaced apart and generally erect,

connectors to releasably attach said canopy to said frame,

receiving means on said canopy for removably receiving end portions of said frame,

retainers for releasably securing said canopy to the bed mattress, and

an entry to said canopy,

wherein at least one of said panels includes at least one hoop of flexible, resilient material encircling and secured to a fabric sheet at most points thereof, said hoop supporting said sheet and said sheet resisting collapse of said hoop,

wherein said frame comprises a plurality of elongated, tubular segments removably connected end-to-end in a linear series,

further including a mattress for the bed, the mattress having a top surface, a peripheral edge, and four corners, the open base of the canopy being generally coextensive with the peripheral edge of the mattress, and the retainers releasably engaging the mattress,

wherein said hoop is continuous except for a transverse open split.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently amended) ~~The combination of claim 22~~ In combination, a bed-tent for a bed,

a bed mattress having a top surface, a peripheral edge, and four corners,

a canopy having an open base at least partially coextensive with the peripheral edge of the mattress,

said canopy including at least one panel having at least one hoop of flexible, resilient strip material and a sheet of flexible fabric in the space within and marginally secured to the hoop generally at the perimeter thereof,

said hoop being capable of being twisted or wound into a relatively flat coil of reduced diameter for storage,

retainers for releasably securing the canopy to the mattress, and

an entry to said canopy,

wherein said retainers include flexible straps respectively engaging the four corners of the mattress.

24. (Original) The combination of claim 23, further including support means to maintain said canopy on said top surface of said mattress.

25. (Original) The combination of claim 23, further including at least a second panel having a second hoop of flexible resilient material and a second sheet of flexible fabric in the space within and marginally secured to said second hoop generally at the perimeter thereof.

26. (Withdrawn) The combination of claim 25, wherein said hoop and said second hoop are portions of one continuous flexible strip.

27. (Withdrawn) The combination of claim 25, wherein said hoop is adapted to be secured to said second hoop along a limited periphery thereof.

28. (Withdrawn) The combination of claim 25, wherein said panels define a cover section of said canopy at least a portion of which is upwardly inclined from the base of the canopy.

29. (Withdrawn) The combination of claim 25, wherein said panels define a cover section of said canopy at least a portion of which is downwardly inclined towards the base of the canopy.

30. (Withdrawn) The combination of claim 24, wherein said canopy includes a second hoop of flexible, resilient strip material defining the base of the canopy.

31. (Withdrawn) The combination of claim 30, wherein said one hoop and said second hoop are portions of one continuous flexible strip.

32. (Original) The combination of claim 25, further including a supporting frame releasably connected to said canopy for holding said panels spaced apart and generally erect.

33. (Original) The combination of claim 32, further including receiving means on said canopy for removably receiving end portions of said frame.

34. (Cancelled)

35. (New) A bed-tent for providing an enclosure over a bed having a mattress with a top surface, a peripheral edge, and four corners, the bed tent comprising:

a canopy having an open base,

said canopy comprising spaced apart at least first and second panels and a flexible cover extending between said panels,

each said panel comprising at least one hoop of flexible, resilient, strip material and a sheet of flexible fabric in the space within and marginally secured to said hoop generally at the perimeter thereof,

said sheets being maintained taut by, and resisting collapse of, the hoops to which said sheets are secured,

at least one retainer for releasably securing said canopy to the bed, and

an entry to said canopy,

the open base of the canopy being substantially coextensive with the peripheral edge of the mattress, and

wherein said at least one retainer is adapted to releasably engage at least one corner of the mattress.

36. (New) A bed-tent for providing an enclosure over a bed mattress, comprising:

- a canopy having an open base,
- said canopy comprising spaced apart at least a first panel and a second panel and a flexible cover extending between said panels,
- a flexible supporting frame disposed externally of said canopy for holding said panels spaced apart and generally erect,
- connectors to releasably attach said canopy to said frame,
- retainers for releasably securing said canopy to the bed mattress, and
- an entry to said canopy,
- said frame having a first flexible stanchion releasably connected to said first panel,
- said frame having a second flexible stanchion releasably connected to said second panel,
- said frame having a frame member disposed above said canopy and extending between and holding generally upright said first and second stanchions.

37. (New) A bed-tent for providing an enclosure over a bed mattress, comprising:

- a canopy having an open base,
- said canopy comprising spaced apart at least a first panel and a second panel and a flexible cover extending between said panels,
- a flexible supporting frame disposed externally of said canopy for holding said panels spaced apart and generally erect,

connectors to releasably attach said canopy to said frame,
 at least one retainer for releasably securing said canopy to the bed
 mattress, and
 an entry to said canopy,
 wherein said at least one retainer releasably engages at least one corner of
 the mattress.

38. (New) In combination, a bed-tent for a bed,
 a bed mattress having a top surface, a peripheral edge, and four corners,
 a canopy having an open base at least partially coextensive with the
 peripheral edge of the mattress,
 said canopy including at least one panel having at least one hoop of
 flexible, resilient strip material and a sheet of flexible fabric in the space within and
 marginally secured to the hoop generally at the perimeter thereof,
 at least one retainer for releasably securing the canopy to the mattress, and
 an entry to said canopy,
 wherein said at least one retainer releasably engages at least one corner of
 the mattress.

39. (New) The bed tent of claim 21 wherein at least one of said at least one
 hoop is capable of being twisted or wound into a relatively flat coil.

40. (New) The bed tent of claim 21 wherein said frame includes a horizontal
 frame member.

41. (New) The bed tent of claim 40 wherein said frame further includes at least one stanchion.

42. (New) The bed tent of claim 35 wherein at least one of said at least one hoop is capable of being twisted or wound into a relatively flat coil.

43. (New) The combination of claim 38 wherein at least one of said at least one hoop is capable of being twisted or wound into a relatively flat coil.

44. (New) The combination of claim 38 wherein said at least one retainer includes a pocket that receives at least a portion of a corner of the mattress.

45. (New) The combination of claim 38 wherein said at least one retainer includes a flexible strap or band.